Code of Criminal Procedure based on the decisions taken on the recommendations made by the Law Commission, Natural Police Commission and suggestion received from State Governments and others! the details of some of these which would have the effect of expenditing disposal of criminal cases are given in the Statement laid on the Table of the House. (*See* below).

(c)The Government have entrusted to the Law Commission the study of judicial system to introduce necessary reforms. The terms of reference *inter-alia* including the study of procedural laws with a view generally to disposing of the cases expenditiously and eliminating unnecessary litigation and delays in hearing of cases.

Statement

The Government contemplates the following further amendments to the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 based on the decisions taken on the recommendations made by the Law Commission the National Police Commission and suggestions received from State Governments and others, which would have the effect of expediting disposal of criminal cases:—

(1) Amendment of section 173 to insert a new sub-section to enable the police to take note of the desire of the parties to compound the offences enumerated in Table appended to section 320(2).

(2) Amendment of section 223 to extend the provisions thereof to the Court of Session providing that the Judge may direct joint trial of accused persons, even if they do not fall in the categories specified, if he is satisfied that such persons would not be prejudicially effected thereby.

(3) Amendment of section 228 to empower the sessions Judge to transfer the case either to the Chief Judicial Magistrate or to any other Judicial Magistrate of the First Class and to fix a date for the appearance of the accused.

(4) Amendment of setcion 260.

(i) to specify that in respect of offences mentioned in sub-section (1) thereof, summary trial should be mandatory; and

(ii) to provide that the offence of theft and other cognate offences may be tried summarily where the value of the property involved does not exceed two thousand rupees instead of two hundred rupees at pnesent.

(5) Insertion of new section 291A with a view to making memorandum of identification admissible in evidence without formal proof of facts stated therein.

(6) Amendment of section 296 to specify that the evidence of a witness to prove certain facts like the inquest and its report, entries in the general diary of a Police Station and other such facts be given by affidavit and read in evidence like any other evidence of a formal character and should form part of his examination-in-chief.

Allotment of shops to Aberdeen Bazar Fire Victims

*416. SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain fire victims of 1974 Aberdeen Bazar fire in Andaman and Nicobar Islands are yet to be allotted alternative shops to carry on their business;

(b) what is the number of the fire victims who have since been allotted alternative shops and what are the reasons for the delay in the allotment of shops to the remaining persons; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to expedite allotment of shops to them to mitigate their hardships?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) No. Sir.

(b) All the fire victims who applied for alternative shops and fulfilled the conditions for allotment of shops in the Municipal Market have been allotted shops in the Port Blair Municipal Market. The number of such fire victims is sixty.

(c) Does not arise.

Contribution for Financing the Activities of SAARC

*417. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the countries which have contributed to the fund for financing the activities of the SAARC and the amounts contributed by each country;

(b) what steps are being taken to persuade the member countries of the SAARC to make adequate contributions to finance its activities; and

(c) what are the main activities of the SAARC which will be financed out of this fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) While there is no fund as such for financing SAARC activities, the latest position regarding the pledges of contributions for SAARC programme activities is as follows:

Bangladesh (1987-88)	Bangaledesh Takas 7.5 million	(=Indian Rs. 3.36 million approx.)
Bhutan (1987-88)	Bhutanese NU 2 million	(=Indian Rs. 2 million)
India (1987-88)	Indian Rs.	15 million
Maldives (1987)	Maldivian Rufiyas 252,000	(=Indian Rs. 420,000 approx.)
Nepal (1987-88)	Nepalese Rs. 7 million	(=Indian Rs. 4.12 million approx.)
Pakistan (1987-88)	Pakistani Rs. 12.5 million+Rs. 500,000 for scholarships	(=Indian Rs. 9.33 million+Indian Rs. 373,000 approx.)
Sri Lanka (1987)	Sri Lanka Rs. 5 million	(=Indian Rs. 2.22 million approx.)

(b) The contributions presently made by member States are adequate, for the time being, to finance SAARC activities.

(c) The contributions by member countries are used for financing programmes included in the SAARC Calendar of Activities and for other programmes agreed to by the member countries to expand and strengthen regional cooperation.